

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03091 021117Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /073 W
-----107540 021122Z /11

O R 021020Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9165

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 3091

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ZA

SUBJ: UNIP ANNOUNCES PROPOSED CHANGES IN PARTY CONSTITUTION

1. SUMMARY: UNIP SECRETARY MAINZA CHONA TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 1 THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIP CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ELECTION OF THE PARTY PRESIDENT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE UNIP GENERAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO MEET SEPTEMBER 9-12. THE CHANGES WOULD LIMIT COMPETITION FOR THE PRESIDENCY. ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT. CHONA CONTENDED THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION "FOR A LONG TIME," AND WERE NOT AIMED AT THE THREE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY INTEND TO CHALLENGE KAUNDA'S CANDIDACY. END SUMMARY.

2. UNIP SECRETARY GENERAL MAINZA CHONA ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 1

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 03091 021117Z

THAT SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO PARTY CONSTITUTION WILL BE PUT BEFORE THE UPCOMING GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTY. THE PROPOSED CHANGES REQUIRE THAT ANY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BE A MEMBER OF UNIP WITH FIVE YEARS' STANDING AND OTHERWISE BE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE REPUBLIC CONSTITUTION. WOULD-BE CANDIDATES MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL WHO IN TURN PRESENTS THE NAMES TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IF THERE

IS MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MAY DECIDE TO INDICATE SUPPORT FOR ONLY ONE, AND PASS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL. CANDIDATES THEN APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL ALSO REQUIRE SUPPORT BY 20 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 600 GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES FROM EACH PROVINCE. CONFERENCE DELEGATES WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE, AND THE PEKON RECEIVING A MAJORITY VOTE WILL BE ELECTED PARTY PRESIDENT AND BE THE SOLE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

3. CHONA EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES WERE NOT DESIGNED TO THWART THE AMBITIONS OF THE THREE PERSONS WHO HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY PLAN TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS CANDIDATES AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME AND HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY PROVINCIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEES DURING RECENT TOURS OF ZAMBIA'S NINE PROVINCES. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THE AMENDMENTS WERE DESIGNED TO BRING THE PARTY CONSTITUTION "UP TO DATE" AND REFLECTED PROPOSALS BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. HE CONTENDED THAT THE AMENDMENTS WERE ALREADY IN FINAL DRAFT WHEN SIMON KAPWEPWE, HARRY NKUMBULA, AND ROBERT CHILUWE ANNOUNCED THEIR CANDIDACIES.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT PARTY CONSTITUTION, ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MUST FIRST BE CLEARED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THEN APPROVED BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE APPROXIMATELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 03091 021117Z

SIX THOUSAND DELEGATES ATTENDING THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARTY NOW SCHEDULED TO MEET SEPTEMBER 9-12 AT MULUNGUSHI ROCK NEAR KABWE. PRESS ACCOUNTS DO NOT MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WHETHER THE CHANGES, IF APPROVED, WOULD IN EFFECT BE RETROACTIVE AND THUS DISBAR THE CANDIDACIES OF KAUNDA'S THREE CHALLENGERS. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS AT UNIP HEADQUARTERS, THE TEXT OF THE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MEETING AT MULUNGUSHI.

5. COMMENT: CHONA'S COMMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE THE AMENDMENTS ARE NOT INTENDED TO GUARANTEE THAT THERE WILL BE NO WAY TO CHALLENGE THE CANDIDACY OF KAUNDA AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. IF THE AMENDMENTS ARE RETROACTIVE (AS THEY PROBABLY WILL BE), FIVE-YEAR REQUIREMENT ELIMINATES SIMON KAPWEPWE, WHO ONLY REJOINED THE PARTY LESS THAN A YEAR AGO. THE ODDS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL VETTING FORMER ANC LEADER HARRY NKUMBULA ARE SLIM, TO SAY THE LEAST. IT IS ALSO DOUBTFUL WHETHER HE COULD GATHER THE REQUISITE 20 SUPPORTERS FROM EACH OF ZAMBIA'S PROVINCES. MOST OBSERVERS WOULD PROBABLY AGREE THAT BUSINESSMAN ROBERT CHILUWE IS A NONENTITY WHO NEVER HAD A CHANCE ANYWAY.

6. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT DELEGATES TO MULUNGUSHI ARE BEING VERY CAREFULLY SCREENED AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE AMENDMENTS WILL FAIRLY EASILY WIN APPROVAL. BY THE SAME TOKEN, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT KAUNDA COULD HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED BY ANY OF THE ERSTWHILE CANDIDATES. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, WISHES TO TAKE NO CHANCES. THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, ALBEIT NOT YET IMPOSSIBLE, FOR ANYONE TO CHALLENGE THE INCUMBENT, AND ZAMBIA WILL HAVE MOVED ONE STEP CLOSER TO A LIFE PRESIDENCY IN PRACTICE IF NOT IN THEORY.
CLINGERMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA03091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780359-0701
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808108/aaaadmis.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b0b8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1562922
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIP ANNOUNCES PROPOSED CHANGES IN PARTY CONSTITUTION
TAGS: PINT, ZA, UNIP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b0b8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014